

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9624

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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LONDON FOR SOBER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, SK, IN

SUBJECT: PAK REACTION TO SIKKIM DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY. IN CONTRAST TO THEIR UNUSUALLY LOW KEY REACTION TO SIKKIM DEVELOPMENTS LAST YEAR, THE PAKS HAVE REACTED SHARPLY TO LATEST INDIAN MOVES THERE. END SUMMARY.

1. PAKISTAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUED FOLLOWING STATEMENT APRIL 11 CONCERNING RECENT SIKKIM DEVELOPMENTS.

2. QUOTE THE GRAVE NEWS OF ANNEXATION BY FORCE OF THE STATE OF SIKKIM BY INDIA MUST BE A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE WORLD AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO THE STATES OF THIS REGION.

3. INDIA HAS ONCE AGAIN, DEMONSTRATED ITS PREDILECTION FOR RESORTING TO THE USE OF FORCE IN ORDERING ITS RELATIONS

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WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS INSTEAD OF BASING THEM ON THE PRINCIPLES

OF RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF STATES AND NON-
INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. THIS DISTURBING PATTERN OF APPROACH TO RELATIONS WITH
SMALLER NEIGHBOURING STATES MUST INEVITABLY SHAKE CONFIDENCE
IN INDIA'S COMMITMENT TO A POLICY OF BUILDING DURABLE PEACE
IN THE REGION.

5. ONLY LAST SEPTEMBER INDIA TOOK ACTION TO ERODE THE STATUS
OF SIKKIM BY REDUCING IT TO WHAT IT TERMED AN "ASSOCIATE
STATE." INDIA DID SO BY AN ACT OF ITS PARLIAMENT ALTHOUGH
THE PARLIAMENT HAD NO LEGAL COMPETENCE, WHATEVER TO LEGIS-
LATE FOR THE HIMALAYAN STATE. AND NOW EVEN THE ACT OF THE
INDIAN LEGISLATURE HAS BEEN NEGATED THROUGH AGGRESSION
AGAINST THIS SMALL AND DEFENCELESS NEIGHBOUR.

6. WHAT THE WORLD FEARED MIGHT BE INDIA'S REAL INTENTION
HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE ANNEXATION OF THE STATE. THERE IS
A VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ACTUAL PRACTICE AND INDIA'S
PROFESSIONS OF COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL METHODS OF SETTLING
DISPUTES. UNQUOTE

7. COMMENT. GENUINE CONCERN WITH WHAT THEY CONSIDER
FURTHER EVIDENCE OF INDIAN HEGEMONIC DESIGNS IN THE
SUBCONTINENT AND THE OPPORTUNITY THE LATEST GOI MOVES
IN SIKKIM GIVE THE PAKS TO SCORE PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE
BOTH FIGURE IN THIS GOP REACTION. STATEMENT CONTRASTS
SHARPLY WITH UNUSUALLY LOW KEY PAK REACTION TO LAST SEPTEMBER'S
SIKKIM EVENTS. AT THAT TIME GOP, ABOUT TO ENGAGE
IN IMPORTANT SERIES OF SIMLA NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIANS,
CHOSE PUBLICLY TO IGNORE SIKKIM DEVELOPMENTS FOR SOME WEEKS
AND BHUTTO REMARKED TO AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT AT THE TIME
THAT PAKS DID NOT FEEL IT NECESSARY TO CALL TO THE WORLD'S
ATTENTION FURTHER EVIDENCE OF SOMETHING THE GOP HAD BEEN
PREACHING FOR 25 YEARS. PAKS HAVE OBVIOUSLY DECIDED NOT
TO PULL THEIR PUNCHES THIS TIME AROUND AND HAVE REVERTED TO
WHAT HAD BEEN THEIR MORE CUSTOMARY, AND UNDERSTANDABLE,
APPROACH.
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